

THREE QUALITIES OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE ...

1 Thess 1:2-3

1 Th 1:2 We give thanks: present tense.

For you all: without exception.

Paul says

God is witness-2:5

Ye are witnesses, and God also 2:10

Making mention of you in our prayers: Consistently referring to you in our conversations with God.

Missionary team spent time together in prayer.

Why thankful?

1 Th 1:3 Three qualities of a spirit-filled life: Faith—love—hope.

1. **Your work of faith.** Most not look at faith as connected with work.

Work: carries with it the sense of vocation, toil and labor.

Your labor produced by your faith. A life message of faith---practical expression of faith.

Work of faith

- Missions work (1:8)
- Good deeds (4:9-10)
- Loyalty to Christ in the midst of persecution (1:6; 3:3-4, 8)

Our primary vocation is that of living the Christian life

Effort, as a result of a changed life, is essential fruit of a Spirit-filled believer.

Work proves whether or not faith is alive. Ja 2:14-26; Philippians 2:12-13

My most important vocation is that of Christian discipleship...the other vocation is that of making a living.

It is the basis

- Of our thinking in relation to God's will
- Of how we make important decisions in our life
- Of our thinking in regard to finances...stewardship
- Of our thinking in regard to our family life

Demarest: *Faith as vocation means that I not only accept the potential joys, rewards, and securities of family relationships, but that I accept my responsibility for the potential problems, conflicts, and struggles as well. To do this well, I have to approach all 'family' relationships with realistic expectations.*

The work of faith:

- Trusting God to build relationships
- Yielding rights to have a **relationship**

- Trusting God to open a person's heart

Why **work** of faith?

- ❖ Saps energy.
- ❖ Empties emotional reserve
- ❖ **Depletes physical strength**

Relationship with money a good indication

If I have faith as my vocation, then my management of money is called "stewardship"

We choose to live our life by faith--not sacrifice our relationship with God or others on altar of money, a better job, or personal prestige.

2. **Labour of love...** Hard work is result of love

Willingness to put out effort in order to help someone

Labor: produces fatigue and even exhaustion.

Love: total-giving, sacrificial love.

Decisive

Intentional.

Little to do with emotions.

Has everything to do with the work of faith and obedience

Humanly impossible ...supernaturally given by the Holy Spirit.

Give up trying to love on own strength and let Holy Spirit love through you.

Rom 5:5 Eph 5:18 Gal 5:22

Illustrated by the love Jesus Christ has shown towards us:

John 3:16 1 John 4:10 John 13:34 John 15:12

Involves sacrifice, Feelings, desires, expectations

Not contingent upon the condition of the one loved.

3. **Patience of hope**

Patience: longsuffering, endurance

Coming into a crisis and steadily, without being ruffled in one's temperament, consistently walking through it realizing God has a purpose

Hope: to anticipate, usually with pleasure; confident expectation.

Gabelein: *Endurance accepts the seemingly dreary "blind alleys" of Christian experience with a spirit of persistent zeal. It rules out discouragement and goes forward no matter how hopeless the situation.*

Such endurance is possible only when one is "inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Hope is the only adequate incentive for this heroic conduct.

Deep roots in Jesus Christ.

Demarest: *This hope in Jesus is rooted in reality. In the Christian life we are not dealing merely with ideas, theories, theology, or doctrine. We are dealing with a person – Jesus Himself!*

My hope – built on Christ, the Solid Rock

1. *My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Chorus: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand – All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

2. *His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.*

3. *When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne*

So What?

Gabelein: *The expectation was that in every life faith would work (Gal 5:6; Ja 2:18), love would labor (Rev. 2:2,4), and hope would endure (Rom 5:2-4;8:24,25)*

1. Work of Faith
2. Labor of Love
3. Patience of Hope